

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 2332

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BC, US, UN
SUBJECT: BOTSWANA APPEAL TO SECURITY COUNCIL ON RHODESIA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEC. 17 STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT BY VICE
PRESIDENT MASIRE ANNOUNCING PRESIDENT KHAMA'S DECISION TO APPEAL
TO UNSC FOR ASSISTANCE AGAINST RHODESIAN AGGRESSION.

2. QTE: MR. SPEAKER,

IT IS MY SAD DUTY TO INFORM THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE ABOUT
THE DETERIORATING SITUATION ON OUR BORDER WITH RHODESIA.
SINCE THE 27TH DECEMBER 1966 THIRTY-ONE VIOLATIONS OF OUR
TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY BY MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN SECURITY
FORCES HAVE COME TO OUR NOTICE. THERE HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN
MANY MORE WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED TO GOVERNMENT. TWELVE
OUT OF THE THIRTY-ONE VIOLATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE THIS YEAR
AND THEY ARE ALSO BECOMING FAR MORE SERIOUS. THEY INCLUDE
MURDER, ARSON, KIDNAPPING AND DESTRUCTION OF DWELLING HOUSES
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WITH EXPLOSIVES. THEY ARE NO LONGER DIRECTED ONLY AT REFUGEES
FROM RHODESIA WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED REFUGE IN BOTSWANA BUT THE
RECENT VICTIMS INCLUDE BOTSWANA.

3. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE POLICY OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO GRANT
ASYLUM TO GENUINE POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM NEIGHBORING

COUNTRIES. IT HAS ALSO ALWAYS BEEN OUR POLICY NOT TO PERMIT BOTSWANA TO BE USED AS A LAUNCHING PAD FOR ATTACKS AGAINST NEIGHBORING STATES. THERE ARE NO BASES IN BOTSWANA FROM WHICH FREEDOM FIGHTERS LAUNCH ATTACKS AGAINST NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. YET THE SMITH REGIME HAS GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT BOTSWANA HAS PERMITTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH BASES. FOR EXAMPLE AN ARTICLE IN THE "WEEKEND ARGUS" PUBLISHED IN CAPE TOWN ON 13TH NOVEMBER 1976 STATES THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SMITH REGIME HAVE REVEALED THEIR DISCOVERY OF A SECRETA, AND I QUOTE, "CAMP CONSISTING OF 18 PERMANENT HUTS AND STAFFED BY ABOUT 120 TERRORISTS. THE BASE NAMED IN CAPTURED DOCUMENTS AS THE 'FREEDOM THREE' CAMP IS SITUATED NEAR THE VILLAGE OF NATAL IN THE MAKARIKARI SWAMPS AREA. IT IS BELIEVED THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT HAS REGARDED THE CAMP AS A WELL KEPT SECRET AND IT IS CLAIMED THAT A DETACHMENT OF BOTSWANA POLICE UNIT IS CAMPED NEARBY. THE POLICE UNIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING LOCAL VILLAGERS AWAY." UNQUOTE. I ASSUME THE VILLAGE REFERRED TO IS NATA.

4. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE SMITH REGIME IS TELLING SUCH OUTRAGEOUS AND DELIBERATE LIES IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY ITS ACTS OF MURDER, ARSON AND KIDNAPPING AGAINST BOTSWANA IN BOTSWANA. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS BRUTAL AND MURDEROUS GANG OF THUGS WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE THE GOVERNMENT OF RHODESIA ARE DETERMINED TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY AND MAGNITUDE OF THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST BOTSWANA IN AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE US TO THE EXTENT THAT WE DENY REFUGE TO THEIR VICTIMS. THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN.

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5. THE CLAIMS BY THE SMITH REGIME THAT BOTSWANA PERMITS FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO OPERATE INTO RHODESIA FROM BASES IN BOTSWANA ARE ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. IT IS TRUE THAT SOME FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE FLED INTO BOTSWANA FROM RHODESIA AND HAVE SURRENDERED THEMSELVES TO THE BOTSWANA POLICE. IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT BOTSWANA REFUSED THE RHODESIAN REQUESTS FOR THEIR RETURN TO RHODESIA. ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED FROM BOTSWANA TO OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

6. MR. SPEAKER, WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE AND I HERE AND NOW INVITE ANYONE, WHO BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE FREEDOM FIGHTER BASES IN BOTSWANA TO COME HERE AND SHOW THEM TO US. ANYONE WHO WISHES TO ACCEPT THIS INVITATION SHOULD CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IN GABORONE AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5431 AND THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE.

7. AS HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT INFORMED THIS HONORABLE HOUSE IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS, GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO EXPAND

THE POLICE MOBILE UNIT SUBSTANTIALLY AND EQUIP IT WITH MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. THIS RECRUITMENT OF THE FIRST BATCH OF MEN FOR THE EXPANDED POLICE MOBILE UNIT IS IN PROGRESS. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR PERMANENT POLICE MOBILE PATROLS ALONG THE BORDER FROM MAITENGWE AND MATSEILOJE. A TRACK HAS BEEN GRADED ALONG THE BORDER FROM MAITENGWE TO THE TULI CIRCLE AND WE ARE CURRENTLY EXAMINING WAYS OF PROVIDING WATERING POINTS FOR LIVESTOCK AWAY FROM THE BORDER.

8. HOWEVER, MR. SPEAKER, WITH OUR LIMITED RESOURCES BOTH FINANCIAL AND HUMAN WE CANNOT HOPE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SECURITY FORCES TO SAFEGUARD OUR BORDER WITH RHODESIA AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT HAS, THEREFORE, DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD APPEAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AGAINST THIS AGGRESSION. OUR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASK FOR AN URGENT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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9. HONORABLE MEMBERS HAVE RIGHTLY EXPRESSED THEIR GRAVE CONCERN DURING THIS MEETING ABOUT THE SITUATION ON OUR BORDER WITH RHODESIA. GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE. I THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO APPEAL TO THE LEADERS IN RHODESIA TO

FORGET THEIR PERSONAL AMBITIONS AND TO BE SINCERE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM WHEN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENES. THEY SHOULD REMEMBER THAT HUMAN LIFE IS THE MOST PRECIOUS THING ON EARTH AND IT SHOULD NOT BE SQUANDERED RECKLESSLY. LET ME ALSO SAY TO SMITH AND HIS ADHERENTS THAT THEY ARE TO BLAME FOR THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA AND NOT US. THEIR TRANSPARENT EFFORTS TO FIND SCAPE-GOATS IN BOTSWANA WILL NOT FOOL ANYONE. THEY CANNOT FOREVER HIDE THE INADEQUACIES OF THEIR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BY CLAIMING THAT ANY ACT NOMMITTED WITHIN 100 KILOMETRES OF OUR BORDER WAS COMMITTED BY FREEDOM FIGHTERS BASED IN BOTSWANA, WHEN THEY KNOW FULL WELL THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY OPERATING WITHIN RHODESIA. WHY DO THEY NOT FACE UP TO THE TRUTH AND PLACE THE BLAME IN THE RIGHT PLACE, NAMELY ON THEIR OWN DOORSTEP.

10. WE CONSIDER IT IS VITAL THAT THIS CONFLICT SHOULD BE CONTAINED AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE MUST NOT ALLOW A RACIAL WAR TO ENGULF THE AREA. IT IS CLEAR THAT SMITH WANTS TO DRAG HIS NEIGHBORS INTO HIS WAR. THIS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN.

11. MR. SPEAKER, WE HAVE MADE MANY SACRIFICES IN SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN WHAT WE BELIEVE, A NON-RACIAL AND

DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE MORE SACRIFICES IN
THE FUTURE BUT I KNOW THE BOTSWANA WILL BE EQUAL TO THIS
DIFFICULT TASK. UNQUOTE.

NORLAND

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